

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council August 27, 2020, 1:00 PM

VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH KAWAOKA D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NICHOLAS COMERFORD, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Considering the evolving COVID-19 situation, protecting the health and welfare of the community is of utmost concern. As such, the meeting was held remotely, with Council members, legislative participants, and staff participating via online meeting software. The meeting was livestreamed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFT6SAASZIUxd_XgZMCjGsQ

AGENDA

1. Call to order by Chair Case:

a. 1:07 PM

2. Introductions:

a. Council: Suzanne Case (Chair-DLNR), Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (Chair - HDOA), Jeff Goodwin (UH-CTAHR), Walter Bowin (UH-CTAHR), David Rodriguez (HDOT), Mary Alice Evans (DBEDT), Keith Kawaoka (HDOH)

b. Legislators: Representative Wildberger, Representative Nakamura, Representative Lowen, staff from the office of Senate President Ron Kouchi, Rock Riggs (Senator Gabbard's office)

c. Guests: Justine Nihipali (Chair of RWG -DBEDT), Congressman Ed Case, Mitch Heindrich (Congressman Case office),

d. HISC staff: Leyla Kaufman, Josh Atwood, Chelsea Arnott, Randy Bartlett

3. Approval of minutes from May 20, 2020 meeting:

a. Co-chair Shimabukuro-Geiser moves to approve the minutes, member Rodriguez seconds. Council approves.

4. Discussion: Congressman Ed Case on COVID19 relief funding, Forest bill and other natural resources updates

a. Mitch is the legislative coordinator for environmental issues so continue to work with him.

b. **COVID-19:** CARES Act passed with \$3 trillion in relief funding, but the funding is almost dry. Need another emergency assistance bill which passed congress but is stuck in Senate and still in the middle of an intense negotiation. Going to be a true compromise where not everyone is getting what they want and trying to get that passed soon. There is a need for assistance in natural resources where some

of those funding streams will be drying up. Some funding related to agriculture. Please reach out if there are any barriers to getting funding.

- c. **Hawai'i Invasive Species Act:** Bill for pre-clearance for materials coming into Hawai'i via barges and air. Would instill a better biosecurity system similar to New Zealand but needs a lot of socializing within Congress.*
- d. **National Forest:** no national forest in Hawai'i and there's no reason we don't have one. Introduced a bill to creating a national forest in Hawai'i which is the first step in the process. It got passed out of the Nat Res and Appr. Committee. Hopefully that moves out of the House.*
- e. **Ka'ena Point National Heritage Bill:** Better coordination amongst agencies. More funding to leverage and more protection. Didn't get this out of congress but will do it again next year and made a lot of good progress.*
- f. Able to get more agricultural quarantine funding. Able to get educational assistance in the agriculture area and also more money for ranching. Hoping these funds will be available in the next fiscal years.*
- g. Open the conversation to look at areas that we are not currently addressing. Please reach out. Great American Outdoors Act passed which is a large increase in federal funding. Not sure what the application is but it was just signed 3 weeks ago. Need to figure out how Hawai'i can benefit from this funding.*
- h. Mahalo from Suzanne Case and the Council for their work.*
- i. Shimabukuro-Geiser: HDOA updated their strategic plan based on a session from 2019 Legislature. Included biosecurity initiative actions in the plan. Focused on multi-agency collaboration highlighted in the biosecurity plan. Also focused on local food production, marketing agricultural production and how to better support this. Offering a series of Zoom meetings to share strategic plan with stakeholders. Regroup after these meetings and take into account those comments to provide a final report to the legislature. Appreciate the federal opportunities including proposals for food insecure areas.
 - i. Congressman: We are already working on FY22 budget to be prepared and making sure Hawai'i isn't left out the picture. Hawai'i has some speciality crops that are important that aren't necessarily known in DC.**
- j. Rep Nakamura: CARES Act funding to be extended beyond the end of the year?
 - i. Congressman: Confusion about what has to happen by the deadline. It doesn't need to be spent by the deadline it just needs to be encumbered. Mitch will send Rep Nakamura documentation to help explain this. There are bills to extend some of these federal assistance money beyond the end of the year. Optimistic that these will pass. Disagreement on whether or not there will be more money.**
- k. Rep Nakamura: Helicopter Bill
 - i. Congressman: Helicopter bill is gaining some traction in congress. Other states have tis issues of damage from tour operators. Continued discussions inside the industry and community groups that are interested in this topic. Now is the time for these tour operators are change the status quo. Mitch to send some information to Rep Nakamura on this topic.**
- l. Rep Lowen: Also requests the guidance document from Mitch on the CARES Act. Kupu Civilian Conservation Corp funding is hung up on an differing interpretation about whether or not recent grads can apply for these kupu positions.
 - i. Congressman: There's language in the current act that doesn't allow the funding to be used for "pre-budgeted" items. Interpretation is that if this**

is a new position than there shouldn't be any restrictions on those money to hire someone into that position. The issue would be if your re-budgeting the money to support pre-existing positions.

5. Submittal: Requesting approval of a recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2021

- a. *Overview of FY 21 budget with a PowerPoint presentation. Attachment included on website. Presented by Justine Nihipali, Josh Atwood, and Chelsea Arnott.*
 - i. *Appreciation from co-chairs about balancing such a competitive budget.*
 - ii. *Bowen: Wondering if there's a lot of push-back from applicants with final awards?*
 1. *Chelsea: Josh has worked really hard at creating a process that is efficient, fair and transparent. Most applicants have seen this improvement over the time Josh has worked on the budget and understand the limited funding and the amount requested. A lot of discussion takes place during the Resources Working Group and applicant have a chance to comment unlike other grant processes.*
 - iii. *Rep Nakamura: Curious about the project that wasn't funded for the "cat campaign"*
 1. *Josh: This is a social marketing campaign that would be a compromise on messaging between conservationists and cat advocates to work on a campaign to keep cats indoors. We proposed this project last year but it was encumbered. Would still like to see something on this but with the limited funding this is not the year to support this project.*
 2. *Motion to approve the budget submittal. Shimabukuro-Geiser moves to approve. Evans seconds. Motion approved unanimously.*

6. Public Comments

- a. *No submitted testimony*
- b. *Comments on YouTube channel - Appreciation for the funding process that the council uses.*
- c. *Noting that this is a virtual meeting*

7. Adjournment: 2:30 pm

The Council may go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a) (4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in order to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Council's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.

For information, contact:

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